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OCEAN AND COASTAL PROGRAMS AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 1989

AUGUST 3, 1989.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. ROE, from the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H.R. 1668]

The Committee on Science, Space, and Technology to whom was referred the bill (H.R. 1668) to authorize appropriations for certain ocean and coastal programs of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, having considered the same, report favorably thereon with amendments and recommend that the bill do pass.

The amendments are as follows (referring to the amended bill as reported by the Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries on April 18, 1989):

1. In section 3(a), strike "$55,473,000" and insert in lieu thereof "$61,347,000".

In section 3(b), strike "$42,159,000" and insert in lieu thereof, "$46,382,000".

2. In section 5, insert "and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology" immediately following "Fisheries".

I. PURPOSE OF THE BILL

The purpose of the bill is to reauthorize appropriations for fiscal year 1990 for certain oceanic, atmospheric, and coastal programs of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

II. COMMITTEE ACTIONS

The Subcommittee on Natural Resources, Agriculture Research and Environment has held five days of hearings on the atmospheric, weather, satellite and environmental data programs of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

On April 4, 1989, the Subcommittee held hearings on the fiscal year 1990 NOAA budget request for atmospheric and satellite pro-

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grams. NOAA officials testified concerning the adequacy of the Administration's FY 1990 budget request in enabling NOAA to fulfill its Congressionally mandated missions; the appropriate role and level of support for NOAA research and development programs; the status and plans for the modernization of the weather services; the status and plans for Landsat and satellite remote-sensing; and the problems, budget shortfalls, and plans for data programs at NOAA. In addition, the Subcommittee held several hearings relating to specific aspects of NOAA's activities.

On March 3, 1989, the Subcommittee held a hearing on Tornado Forecasting and Severe Storm Warnings in Raleigh, North Carolina. The hearing focused on the ineffectiveness of the National Weather Service in providing tornado warnings during the severe storms and tornadoes of November 27–28, 1988, and identified new technologies to improve the capabilities of the National Weather Service. During the severe storms and tornado of November 27–28, 1988, National Weather Service offices in North Carolina did not provide advance warnings to the public, and no tornado watch was issued prior to the initial tornado. The radar at the Raleigh-Durham weather office was out of service from November 20, 1988 to November 29, 1988, due to the lack of spare parts and spare part modification kits. The NWS internal investigation concluded that the event illustrated the "* * * compelling, almost desperate, need to upgrade and replace the nation's aged system of weather radars." Testimony was heard from the Deputy Director of the National Weather Service, the Director of the National Severe Storms Forecast Center, the Meteorologist in Charge at the Raleigh-Durham Weather Service Office, the Mayor of Raleigh and other local officials, local television meteorologists, and professors of meteorology from North Carolina State University and the University of North Carolina at Asheville.

On March 7, 1989, the Subcommittee held a hearing on the Proposed Termination of Landsat 4 and Landsat 5. The hearing examined the scheduled termination of the Landsat 4 and Landsat 5 remote-sensing satellites due to the lack of funding to support operational expenses. During the hearing it was announced that the Vice President, who also serves as Chairman of the National Space Council, had secured funding commitments sufficient to keep the satellites operating for a few more months, pending a Landsat policy review to be conducted by the National Space Council. Testimony was heard from the Assistant Administrator for Satellite and Information Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Command, Control, Communications, and Intelligence, Department of Defense; the Director of the U.S. Geological Survey, Department of the Interior; and the Chairman of the World Agriculture Outlook Board, Department of Agriculture. In addition, the Subcommittee heard from a wide range of public and private-sector users of the Landsat system; and representatives of the corporate entity designated to commercialize Landsat.

On April 7, 1989, the Subcommittee held a hearing on Hurricane Forecasting and Reconnaissance in West Palm Beach, Florida. The hearing examined the hurricane forecast and reconnaissance programs of the National Weather Service and the status of the hurri-

cane aircraft reconnaissance program operated by the U.S. Air Force. Testimony was heard from the Director of the National Hurricane Center; the Deputy Assistant Administrator of the National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; the Air Weather Services of the U.S. Air Force; private-sector meteorologists, and professors of meteorology.

On May 9, 1989, the Subcommittee on Natural Resources, Agriculture Research and Environment and the Subcommittee on International Scientific Cooperation held a hearing on the Future of Landsat Commercialization. The hearing examined the long-term future of U.S. civil remote-sensing; recent studies of the commercial viability of the Landsat system; and the pros and cons of possible bilateral and multilateral consortia in space remote-sensing. Testimony was heard from representatives of the French, Soviet and Japanese remote-sensing systems; representatives of the NOAA Landsat Marketing study contractors; and other expert witnesses from the private-sector and academia.

On May 11, 1988, the Subcommittee on Natural Resources, Agriculture Research and Environment approved, by unanimous voice vote, a subcommittee print, as amended, authorizing appropriations for the satellite, weather, and atmospheric programs of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration for fiscal years 1990, 1991 and 1992, and ordered that a clean bill be introduced and reported to the full Committee for further consideration. A clean bill, H.R. 2427, was introduced on May 18, 1989.

On July 26, 1989, the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology approved H.R. 2427, with amendments, by unanimous voice vote, and ordered the bill reported to the full House of Representatives.

On April 18, 1989, the Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries ordered reported H.R. 1668, a bill to authorize appropriations for certain ocean and coastal programs of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for Fiscal Year 1990.

On April 25, 1989, the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology requested sequential referral of H.R. 1668, based upon the Committee's jurisdiction over the atmospheric programs of NOAA's Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research.

On June 29, 1989, the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology was granted a sequential referral of H.R. 1668 for a period ending not later than August 4, 1989.

The Subcommittee on Natural Resources, Agriculture Research and Environment, having previously approved legislation authorizing the programs of the Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (H.R. 2427, ordered reported by the Committee on Science, Space and Technology on July 26, 1989) prepared amendments to H.R. 1668 conforming with the actions previously agreed to by the full Committee.

On August 3, 1989, the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, approved H.R. 1668, as amended, by unanimous voice vote, and ordered the bill reported to the House of Representatives.

III. BACKGROUND AND NEED FOR THE LEGISLATION

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) was created in 1970 by Executive Order of the President through Reorganization Plan No. 4. Since its establishment, NOAA has obtained most of its funding for its major programs through direct appropriation with little or no legislative authorization. Authorizations that did occur were limited to a few specific areas of interest such as the National Climate Program and marine pollution monitoring and research. In the 98th Congress, legislation authorizing NOAA activities, S. 1097, was vetoed by the President on October 19, 1984. In the 99th Congress, the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconcilation Act of 1986 (P.L. 99-272) authorized various NOAA activities, including nautical and aeronautical chart programs, marine research and monitoring, ocean pollution research, and weather modification research. During the 100th Congress, provisions authorizing appropriations for NOAA's satellite, atmospheric, and weather programs (previously approved by the House of Representatives and the Senate as S. 1667) were included in Title IV of S. 2209, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1989, which was signed into law on November 17, 1988 (P.L. 100-685)

Oceanic and atmospheric research

The Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR) conducts most of the research in support of NOAA's service organizations. The Committee authorizes the weather, climate, air quality, and solar terrestrial research and service programs that are carried out by the Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research. Major programmatic activities of OAR include climate research and forecasting, basic tornado and hurricane research, weather forecast model research and development, ozone depletion research, climate and global change monitoring and research, and remote sensing development.

IV. COMMITTEE VIEWS

Atmospheric programs

Climate and air quality research

The budget request for Climate and Air Quality Research for FY 1990 is $53,339,000. The Committee recommends an increase to $61,347,000 for fiscal year 1990.

The Committee strongly supports NOAA's climate and global change research activities and has approved the budget request of $20,005,000 in fiscal year 1990.

The Committee is concerned that despite the early recognition of the importance of climate information, climate data systems and services have experienced a general deterioration in the past two decades. Federal planning and resources for climate data management and services have failed to keep pace with the growth in volume of data collected by new observing systems. Therefore, the Committee recommends an increase of $6,000,000 in FY 1990 in the interannual and seasonal climate budget for the implementation of a nationwide climate services and applied climatology program.

The purposes of the program are to improve (1) the timeliness of climate services, (2) the spatial coverage of weather observational networks, (3) the quality control of climate data, (4) access to climate data, (5) the use of climate data, (6) the coordination of Regional Climate Centers with Federal climate centers, and (7) private sector participation in providing climate services.

Atmospheric programs

The budget request for Atmospheric Programs for fiscal year 1990 is $40,537,000. The Committee recommends an increase of $6,000,000 for weather research activities in fiscal year 1990, to be allocated as follows: $2 million for severe weather research, $2 million for hurricane prediction research, and $2 million for PROFS, the Program for Regional Observing and Forecast Services.

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

[In thousands of dollars]

Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research [OAR]	Fiscal year—			Change from budget request
	1989 appropriation	1990 request	1990 authority H.R. 1668	
Climate and air quality research:				
Interannual and seasonal climate	7,336	7,397	13,397	+6,000
Long-term climate and air quality	26,641	24,845	24,845	.....
Climate and global change	9,000	20,005	20,005	.....
National climate program	2,842	1,092	3,100	+2,008
Subtotal	45,819	53,339	61,347	+8,008
Atmospheric programs:				
Weather research	36,224	35,862	41,862	+6,000
Solar-terrestrial services	4,606	4,675	4,466	−209
Subtotal	40,850	40,537	46,328	+5,791
OAR total (SS&T jurisdiction)	86,669	93,876	107,675	+13,799

Christopher Columbus Center for Marine Research

In May 1989, the Subcommittee on Natural Resources, Agriculture Research, and Environment held a field hearing in Baltimore, Maryland, on marine research needs and on the proposed Christopher Columbus Center of Marine Research and Exploration. The testimony received was highly favorable. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration supported the Center concept and acknowledged that the Center would assist NOAA's research efforts.

The Committee is aware of the value of marine research and is particularly impressed by the potential of the Christopher Columbus Center to contribute to a national marine biotechnology research capability. Marine biotechnology promises to be a significant economic force in the coming years, and the proposed Center could enable the United States to gain a competitive edge over its international competitors in the emerging technology.

The Committee is further impressed by the willingness of State and local authorities to contribute to the project. The Committee supports the development of the Center, and encourages the appro-

priate authorizing and appropriations Committees to consider ways to support this worthwhile project.

V. OVERSIGHT FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Pursuant to rule XI, clause 2(l)(3), of the Rules of the House of Representatives, and under the authority of rule X, clause 2(b)(1), and clause 3(f), the results and findings of oversight activities considered by the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology have been adopted and are incorporated in the recommendations found in the present bill and report.

VI. CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET ACT INFORMATION

This bill provides new authorization rather than new budget authority and consequently the provision for section 308(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 are not applicable.

VII. COMMITTEE COST ESTIMATE

In accordance with the requirements of section 252(b) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1970 and pursuant to rule XIII, clause 7 of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the committee estimates the costs to be incurred by the Federal Government during the current and five subsequent years as a result of the enactment of this legislation as follows:

[In millions of dollars]

Fiscal year:	*Amount*
1989	0
1990	365
1991	137
1992	26
1993	11
1994	0

VIII. OVERSIGHT FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS, COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

No findings or recommendations on oversight activity pursuant to rule X, clause 2(b)(2), and rule XI, clause 2(l)(3)(D), of the Rules of the House of Representatives have been submitted by the Committee on Government Operations for inclusion in this report.

IX. EFFECT OF LEGISLATION ON INFLATION

In accordance with rule XI, clause 2(l)(4) of the Rules of the House of Representatives, this legislation is assessed to have no inflationary effect on prices and costs in the operation of the national economy.

X. COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

A quorum being present, the Committee favorably reported the bill, H.R. 1668, as amended, by voice vote, and recommends its enactment.

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